

THREE ILLUSTRATIVE CASE STUDIES IN AFRICAN AGRICULTURE

This section features three case studies that show how the presence and interplay of different enabling factors can meaningfully contribute to integrating gender-responsiveness into LLA processes. The three cases are the fishing communities involved in the Enda Graf Sahel project in Senegal's Saloum Delta, GenderCC Southern Africa's Gender and Climate-Resilient Communities Initiative (GCRCI) in South Africa, and the community agroecological programs of Green Living Movement (GLM) Zambia.

Enda Graf Sahel project in the Saloum Delta, Senegal

Project summary

In Senegal, Environment and Development Action's Groupe de Recherche-Action-Formation (Enda Graf) Sahel, part of the larger Enda Tiers Monde network, has worked since 1977 on more than 100 projects supporting disadvantaged populations (Enda Graf Sahel n.d.). While the organization started as an implementer promoting top-down interventions, it evolved into a nongovernmental organization promoting locally led action in Senegal and other West African countries. A key aspect of this organization is its close relationship with local women's groups and community groups, which lead on project planning and implementation and are trained in fund-raising and project management (Matthews 2006). The organization focuses on supporting women's economic development, entrepreneurship, and sustainable agriculture, while encouraging sociopolitical shifts for gender and climate justice (Brent and Ndoye 2022). The program's local origins and focused mission have enabled it to promote gender-transformative approaches and confront male-dominated institutions to better promote women's agency.

This project aimed to improve the capacities of micro- and small agricultural and fishing enterprises in the Saloum Delta of western Senegal. This region is rich in biodiversity, yet livelihoods are being impacted by the climate crisis; namely, through salinization of land and loss of natural resources, which is forcing farming communities to turn to fishery instead (Dazé and Terton 2021). The fisheries sector in Senegal is traditionally dominated by men (Dazé and Terton 2021). The case study informant remarked that it is very difficult for women to access finance and to represent themselves in local business, and that women are the first to suffer whenever there is insuf-

Enda Graf Sahel case study overview

Location: Senegal

Years active: 2014–present

Key agricultural climate risks: Salinization, sea level rise

Financially supported by Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Fondation Internationale du Banc d'Arguin, Le Monde selon les Femmes, Fondation RAJA

Approximate number of people involved: 4,800 women fishers

Gender-responsive LLA activities: Promoting local leadership by investing in local women's capabilities, involving women collectively in project leadership, forming economic interest groups, encouraging Indigenous local women to share knowledge to ensure economic autonomy and conserve ecosystems

Gender outcomes: Reduced domestic violence, more economic opportunities for women, increased representation of women in municipal leadership, more equitable sharing of domestic work

Adaptation outcomes: Enhanced management of natural resources, more climate-resilient and sustainable livelihoods

Source: Authors; Women & Gender Constituency 2019a; Barre et al. 2020.

ficient food, energy, or water (Pers. Comm. 2022e). Cultural and social norms create obstacles that prevent women from pursuing decision-making and leadership roles in society, accessing information, or having a say in the management of natural resources. It is difficult for them to get access to water or decide which crops to grow and how to grow them. Women are further hampered by gaps in education, which can partly be addressed by communicating with them in local languages. The informant recommended, "Women must play a primary role. . . . [Projects must] emphasize access to financial resources for women and take actions that, above all, support local organizations. [Women] understand the local problems and how to arrive at solutions that directly benefit the [community]" (Pers. Comm. 2022e).

The project applied gender-transformative approaches to support 4,800 women fishers to rehabilitate mangrove systems degraded by climate change and to explore alternative livelihoods to create more stable incomes (Barre et al. 2020). It used participatory research to contextualize women fishers' challenges and address them accordingly, while also engaging men to address issues of masculinity through standardized training modules on gender inequalities and women's leadership (Barre et al. 2020).

Analysis of enabling factors for gender equity and LLA

The project is informed by gender considerations present in the funder's strategies and national policies, such as AFD's (n.d.) gender equality strategy and Senegal's National Strategy for Gender Equality and Equity (UN Women n.d.b). Building on these mandates, Enda conducted a gender analysis to identify the roles of men and women in the household, community, and local fishing economy. This exercise included participatory activities with men and women that helped map societal barriers to women's participation in decision-making roles in the fisheries sector (Dazé and Terton 2021). The project also maintained flexibility to adjust its activities to meet practical needs, beyond adaptation activities, identified by female participants in the project's planning phase. For example, the project initially focused solely on supporting women's livelihoods in the climate-impacted agriculture and fisheries sectors. However, after observing how these project activities disproportionately increased women's work burden compared with men's, Enda project staff identified a new research need: to understand how women's domestic and productive tasks could be reduced (Pers. Comm. 2022e). As a result, the staff adjusted the project to conduct this research and acquire data needed to move forward without imposing undue burdens on women.

The results of these participatory gender analyses informed the design of this project. The project included activities that addressed the gendered distribution of household labor and created economic opportunities for women to promote their traditional knowledge. This was done by facilitating training for men and women to strengthen equity in household chores and decision-making, helping to confront institutions and norms that constrained equal participation (Dazé and Terton 2021). Sensitizing men to these changes brought greater trust; help with domestic chores, which decreased labor burdens; and a reduction in domestic violence (Barre et al. 2020). A follow-up survey analyzing social changes from project trainings found a measurable shift in the distribution of gender roles, especially among younger couples (Pers. Comm. 2022e). Women benefited from the use of new technology for fish processing as well. In 2016, they received solar cookstoves to process their fish in an energy-efficient way, which helped reduce the drudgery of their work and the smoke-related respiratory diseases caused by using firewood as fuel. These technologies also further incentivized local young people to participate in the industry (Brent and Ndoye 2022).

Women received additional training to build up their leadership skills, literacy levels, and technical skills to better participate in the project (AUDA-NEPAD 2017; Dazé and Terton 2021). They then used these to promote traditional and ancestral knowledge (for example, drying fish naturally instead of with wood-based stoves), which helped increase their economic opportunities. Women also felt more confident and empowered when engaging with elected officials to protect fishery resources and restore mangroves (Barre et al. 2020). Additionally, the project supported the election of women to fishery regulation boards and municipal councils, leading to greater exercise of their agency in the sector. In some cases, quotas were established for women's representation in these bodies (Brent and Ndoye 2022). The project also supported the establishment of an inter-ministerial framework to recognize women's business trades and skills (Pers. Comm. 2022g; AUDA-NEPAD 2017). Key project outcomes promoted gender-equal access to and control over resources and benefits from technology, resulting in 180 women generating new income and 200 benefiting from the establishment of a revolving fund system that accelerated an energy transition (Barre et al. 2020). Enda's work also demonstrates climate adaptation benefits, including protection of natural resources vulnerable to climate risks, reforestation of mangroves, and promotion of climate-resilient sources of income.

Enda Graf Sahel's locally informed and gender-responsive approach has reported positive, long-term impacts in addressing cultural norms, advocating for women's political participation, and promoting women's economic opportunities (Pers. Comm. 2022f). Across multiple dimensions, this project's activities reflect all the enabling factors for gender equity and LLA identified by the authors.